



CURRENT TOPICS.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

The secretary of war, on the 26th, issued an order placing Paymaster-General William Smith on the retired list of the army, at the age of 64, with a complete record of service well performed. Col. Thaddeus M. Stanton was appointed by the president to fill the vacancy.

"INQUIRY" JOE, once a prominent chief of the Ottawa Indian tribe, died in Grand Haven, Mich., on the 25th. He was 75 years old.

It is reported that John V. McKane, the old-time political boss of Gravesend township, Kings county, N. Y., who is now in Sing Sing prison, is insane. His particular hallucination is that he is to be released from prison, always on the morrow.

Twenty-three prisoners were lodged in the United States jail in Guthrie, Okla., on the 26th. They were captured by deputy marshals in various parts of the territory. Among them were three murderers, ten counterfeiters and six horse-thieves. There are now twenty-eight people in the federal jail charged with counterfeiting.

SIX TALL, roughly-dressed mountaineers held up No. 3 south-bound passenger train on the Cincinnati Southern railway, about five miles above Greenwood, Ky., at 2:30 o'clock on the morning of the 27th. There were three detectives on the train, and in the fight which ensued, two of the train robbers were killed and one wounded. The three injured bandits made their escape.

At 10:35 p. m. of the 27th from Mountain train No. 34 was held up at Williamsburg, Mo., by two masked robbers, who ordered the express messenger to open the safes. The messenger did not have the combination to the through safe, and the local safe contained no money. At this point the robbers became frightened and left, having first possessed themselves of \$10,000.

The newly-elected president and vice-presidents of the German reichstag decided, on the 27th, not to apply for the customary audience with the emperor for fear of still further straining the situation, but to merely leave their cards at the palace in the hands of court master Hompesch.

This Commercial bank of Cincinnati made an assignment, on the 27th, to W. H. Campbell, its cashier, payment on its paper having been suspended by the clearinghouse. It was the oldest banking institution in that city, and its failure is said to be due to long-continued mismanagement.

At the meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic, department of Michigan, at Mount Clemens, on the 27th, a collection amounting to \$200 was taken up to assist destitute veterans in drought-stricken Nebraska.

A DISPATCH from Madrid, on the 27th, stated that the Spanish government had decided to send Martinez de Campos with 9,700 additional troops to reinforce the army in Cuba.

An American named Wendel Reed was shot three times and fatally injured in the Northern railway station in Paris, on the 27th, by an Englishman named O'Brien. Both men were bookmakers, and the shooting was the result of a quarrel over money matters.

The Japanese loan of 5,000,000 yen to Korea has fallen through, owing to the refusal of Japan to grant Korea's request that the loan be kept standing for fifteen years.

Mrs. FRANK ANNIS perished in her burning home, four miles north of Fenton, Mich., early on the morning of the 27th. She was ill and could not save herself, although two young children escaped unhurt. The fire broke out in the morning at 10 o'clock.

St. AUGUSTINE, Fla., was visited by a most destructive conflagration, on the 28th, the flames spreading with great rapidity because of the inadequate water supply. Forty-six residences and stores and many other buildings went down before the all-devouring element, while about 100 families and many guests of hotels were rendered homeless. The aggregate loss is estimated at \$200,000. All the palmetto trees along the sea wall from the fort to Baya lane were killed.

The United States troops stationed there fought manfully to extinguish the flames and to save property.

The mayor of Columbus, Ind., on the 28th, ordered a court of inquiry, and had all the ministers of that city served with notices to appear and tell, under oath, what they knew about violations of law. This was done in retaliation for charges uttered from the pulpit by John P. Quinn, the reformed gambler, implicating the mayor and other city officials.

FIFTY-SIX buildings were consumed and thirty-four families rendered homeless and desolate by flames which leveled almost the entire business portion of the town of Canasoga, N. Y., on the 28th. The total loss is placed at \$135,000, with insurance between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

SECRETARY CARLISLE left Washington, on the 28th, for Covington, Ky., to be in attendance at the bedside of his brother, George, who was critically ill. Mr. Carlisle's absence, it was said, might be indefinitely prolonged.

The body of Michael Salmon, 70 years old, who had been missing from his home in Cleveland, O., since Christmas, was found, on the 28th, completely encased, excepting one foot, in a huge cake of ice floating in the lake near the shore, which at times had been driven many miles out into the lake and back again by reverse winds.

WILLIAM P. CHALFANT and wife, who left Pittsburgh, Pa., recently on the return trip to Ichow-Fa, China, and who were to have sailed on the steamship "China," from San Francisco, were ordered by the mission board to remain in this country until matters have become settled in China.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

Ex-Mayor Frank Graycroft, who died from Seditia seven years ago, with a shortage of several thousand dollars, due the McCormick Harvesting Co. for which he was general western agent, and who had been missing since, was seen and recognized and talked with in Austin, Tex., recently, by Hugh Fitzgerald, a former Seditia newspaper man, who had been intimately acquainted with Graycroft for years.

Many believed that Graycroft had committed suicide, but the belief now is that he has been engaged in mining in Old Mexico, and has prospered. His family has resided in north Missouri, with relatives, ever since his departure.

A Hard Man to Hold. Says a dispatch sent from Dexter: Sherman Woodrey, who escaped from the Bloomfield jail Sunday night and was caught Monday afternoon and replaced in jail, escaped again Tuesday night. He pretended to be sick, and when the jailer opened his cell in the morning a dummy was found in Woodrey's bed. Woodrey, after placing it in his bed, concealed himself in an unused cell. After the jailer locked up the dummy Woodrey picked the corridor lock and crawled out through the hole he had made in the wall Sunday night. He is charged with having robbed a jewelry store in Dexter of sixty-six watches.

Liut. Ybarra has been relieved from command of the Spanish cruiser Comde Venadito, which sailed upon the American steamer Allianca. Capt. Mateus has been appointed to succeed Liut. Ybarra.

Is the Brooklyn city court of over and terminer, on the 29th, Justice Brown entered an order dismissing all the pending Gravesend indictments found at the time John V. McKane was indicted for offenses against the electric franchise, except those against McKane and Kenneth F. Sutherland. A number of Brooklyn indictments for similar offenses were also dismissed.

FAILURES in the United States for the week ended on the 30th, as reported by R. G. Dun & Co., were 234, against 238 for the corresponding week last year. For Canada the failures numbered 43, against 30 last year.

Seven miles south of Cuba, the partially charred body of David Hildebrand, a farmer on the Meramec river, was found in the ruins of his burned house. It is evident that he was murdered and then thrown into the building and the house burned. In the upper part of the trunk buckshot were found, showing that he had first been shot and then his throat cut. Bloody clothing was found, and tracks of his murderers discovered. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "murdered by parties unknown."

Injured in a Runaway. A horse ran off with buggy at Nevada in which were seated Bert Kinney and Misses Nannie Kinney, Josie Greenstreet and Maud Watt. All of the occupants were thrown out. Miss Watt's right leg was broken between the knee and hip. Miss Greenstreet suffered a sprained wrist, and Miss Kinney was hurt about the head and back.

Chose a Horrible Death. Sam Reed, son of Rev. William Reed, who died suddenly at Trenton, burned himself to death in a building he occupied within 100 feet of the family residence, where the body of his dead sister lay. He had not slept for several nights, and was probably insane. His mother, aunt and two sisters were at the point of death.

Bound Over for Assault. The preliminary trial of Emmett Switzer and Ora Boone, at Excelsior Springs, charged with assaulting B. L. Morton, a teamster, who died as a result of the wound, came up the other day. Boone was acquitted and Switzer held in \$5,000 bonds to await the action of the grand jury in June.

A Monster Dynamo. A St. Louis street railway company has contracted for a mammoth generator, or dynamo. The weight, 180,000 pounds, weight of armature, 85,000 pounds. Cost, about \$25,000.

Courtney-Hancock. Miss Etta Hancock, who was recently awarded judgment for \$30,000 against Prof. Blackwell for slander, was married in Charleston county to Mr. M. F. Courtney.

Abandoned the Courthouse. The Ray county courthouse has become unsafe, and the sheriff has ordered all officers to vacate. The building is of brick, and was erected forty years ago.

E. C. Meacham. E. C. Meacham, president of the Meacham Arms Co., St. Louis, died in the city, aged 50. He was born in Massachusetts and settled in St. Louis in 1866.

Hanged Himself. John T. Wolf, a cigar-maker, aged 42, who resided at 3150 Iowa avenue, St. Louis, hanged himself with a clothes line. He was found by his wife.

Won First Honors. Thomas L. Anderson, of Louisiana, representing Central college at Fayette, won first honors in the Missouri inter-collegiate oratorical contest at Kansas City.

Groom, 76; Bride, 16. Wm. Sweeney, aged 76, of Fairland, I. T., and Miss Zena Taylor, aged 16, of Southwest City, were married at Newsho. The groom is reported rich.

Cut Off His Head. Willie McGrath, aged 4, son of Walter McGrath, 406 North Eleventh street, St. Louis, was run over by an electric car and his head severed.

Boy Drowned. Louis Martin, aged 8, and a companion, attempted to cross a creek in Pettis county, when their boat filled, and young Martin was drowned.

An Aged Bachelor. Joseph Boyer, a bachelor, aged 85, quite healthy, died near Seditia a few days ago. He is believed to have had several thousand dollars buried.

Associated banks of New York city held \$13,413,430 in excess of the 25-per-cent rule on the 30th.

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